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9/11 prompted advances, officials say

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — The terrorist assaults of Sept. 11, 2001, changed more than the lower Manhattan skyline. The unprecedented attacks that ended so tragically in New York City, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania also forever changed the face of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

Out of tragedy came advancements that few disaster response pioneers would have dared dream. In the decade following 9/11, tens of thousands of Southern Baptists became trained disaster relief volunteers; relationships were forged and deepened with faith-based groups, law enforcement, and government entities; and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD) gained recognition and influence.

That influence grew from the respect victims and responders gave SBD volunteers, who used those opportunities to present the Gospel and saw thousands come to faith in Christ.

The first Mississippi Baptist arrived on the scene on September 13. Between then and March 2002, when the last Mississippi Baptist returned home, more than 300 Mississippi Baptists served in the response — many of them making multiple trips.

As leader of the disaster relief team for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, Mickey Caison often is at the center of disaster response and for development of the ministry.

Like many Americans on the East Coast that morning of Sept. 11, he was in his office working on something that

quickly became less important. "It is difficult to believe that it has been 10 years. The memories still flood in. A co-worker came into my office and asked to turn on the television. The first tower was burning. A short time later, the dozen people standing in my office gasped as the second jet hit. My heart sank."

Mobilizing

Months earlier, Caison had participated in discussions with the New York City Office of Emergency Management in a meeting held in one of the other World Trade Center buildings. "I knew people in the building (on 9/11). They were in my prayers," Caison said. "I went in disaster response mode, making phone calls — all the while knowing that SBD must be there."

Whether it was assisting firefighters and other responders who faced the daily burden of recovery efforts, or cleaning New Yorkers' apartments, Southern Baptists enhanced their crisis ministry.

Change also came to critical relationships. "The biggest changes in [disaster relief] are in relationships and credibility," Caison said. "Our relationships are stronger and more purposeful. Our credibility with part-

ners grew through what Southern Baptists were able to accomplish."

A cooperative agreement between the Salvation Army and NAMB in 2002 led to similar agreements with the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We are seen as strong leaders in the response community," Caison said. "We probably mobilize more trained and credentialed volunteers than anyone else... Southern Baptists have a passion to live out their relationship with Christ and they choose to demonstrate it."

Big increases

Another area of change since 9/11 is training — the desire of people wanting to be trained and willing to respond in an organized way, Caison added.

In 2001 there were 24,874 trained Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers. Today there are more than 82,000 volunteers. The first year Southern Baptists provided more than two million meals in disaster response was 2001. In 2004, that number was 3.5 million. In 2005, the year of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, Southern Baptist volunteers prepared more than 17 million meals.

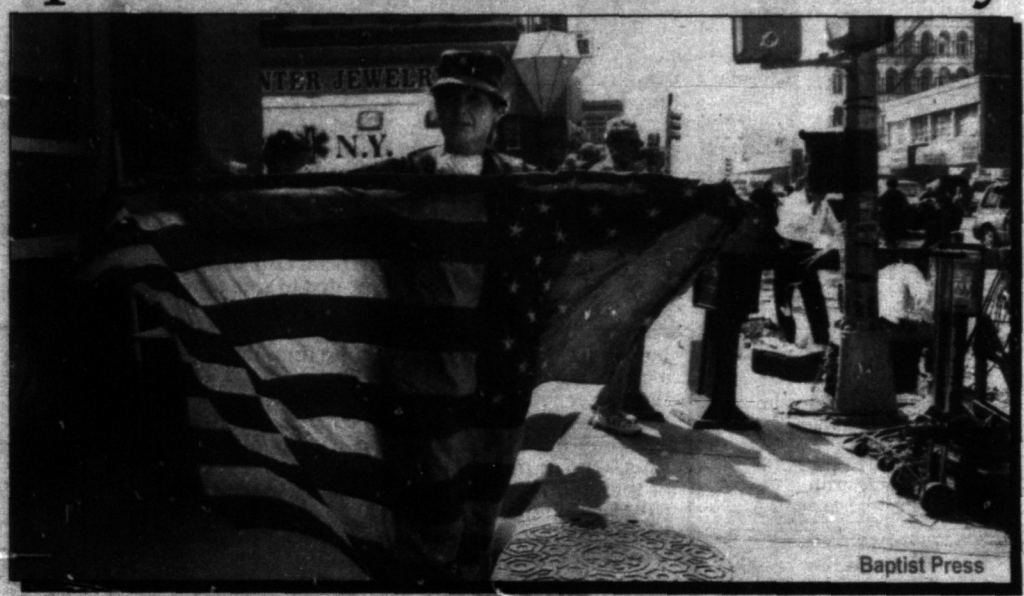
The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief fleet — units equipped by churches, associations, and state conventions for mass feeding and a range of disaster relief services, from chainsaw response to childcare — has grown from 335 in 2001 to 1,552 in 2011.

Hurricane Katrina and 2005 are the benchmarks for Southern Baptist disaster response, but it was 9/11 that set the stage. Some services now expected from Southern Baptist disaster response did not exist prior to 9/11.

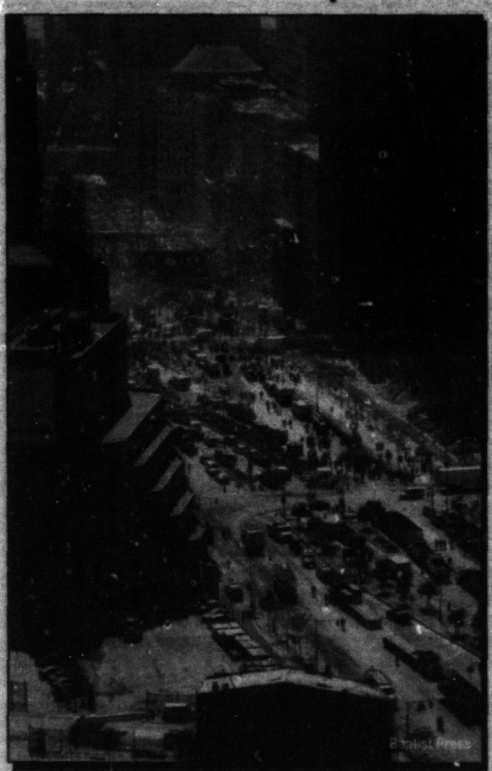
"I believe the Lord has blessed this ministry since 9/11 because the focus is not only on meeting the needs of the moment, but always giving the glory and credit to the Father," said Florida Baptist Convention disaster relief director Fritz Wilson.

Asked what advice he would give himself if he could turn back the calendar to Sept. 10, 2001, Caison pondered the thought. "I would tell myself, 'You can trust God.' He knows what will happen and the Holy Spirit will be there to provide leadership."

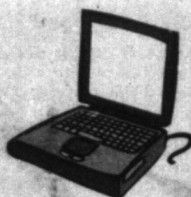
"He always has a plan to work good. You can trust God's people. They will step up and allow Him to use them for His glory, and you can trust your instincts."



STILL WAVING — Lt. Col. Ellen McArthur, of Red Bank, N.J., displays an American flag that she pulled from the ruins of the World Trade Center shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This photo, by Baptist Press photographer Jim Veneman, was published on the front page of the September 20 issue of The Baptist Record. (BP photo)



DEVASTATION — The destructiveness of the 9/11 terrorist attacks is stark when viewed from one of the top floors of a nearby building. The upcoming September 11 date marks ten years since the multi-site terrorist attacks of that day riveted the nation's attention. (BP photo)



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The hardest prayer

Originally published on September 20, 2001

Dear Heavenly Father — I hurt at my innermost. I ache to the depths of my spirit. I am crushed. It is here, in the valley, that I plead with you to gather me in your strong, loving, Daddy arms and hold me until I regain my spiritual strength.

I knew the world was an evil place, but even at 46 years of age I am astonished at the extent of the evil that indeed exists all around us. The evil that could spend years plotting the murder of thousands of innocent people. The evil that would compel 19 young men to believe that there is a heavenly reward for suicide missions that murder thousands of people.

The evil that rests in leaders who teach young men such malignant theology and then send them to their deaths. The evil that convinces hundreds of people to provide logistical support and cover for their homicidal/suicidal brothers, and leads thousands of others to cheer when the terrible deed is done.

When words fail me, I turn to you. I know that you have the power to discern my heart's deepest sentiments from nothing more than my ineffectual groanings. I am at that point. Please hear me, Father, as I pray this hardest prayer.

I pray for the people who, frightened beyond measure, awaited their certain fate aboard the four doomed aircraft. I can't imagine how they must have felt. I can only hope that they had the peace that surpasses all understanding, found only in Jesus Christ. I can only hope that if they didn't know Jesus, a Christian near them had time to tell them. I can only hope this spurs me to be even more dedicated to spreading the Good News.

I pray for the office workers who were instantly vaporized as volatile jet fuel ignited upon impact with the buildings. They didn't have time for a last-minute appeal from a Christian in the next cubicle or down the hall. I can only hope they were ready to meet their Maker as we each will someday and, possibly, like these victims, at a time not of our choosing.

I pray for the families and friends of the thousands of victims, who in many cases will never have a body to bury. Many of them will never know for sure how their loved ones died or to what extent they suffered before they died. Their parent, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter, true friend — wiped out. All they have, and all they will ever have, are the memories of those loved ones. I offer a special prayer for them.

I pray for the survivors who can't stop seeing the horror even when they close their eyes. I pray for the survivors who will never be whole again in mind or body, and in some cases both. They will need more encouragement and support than we know. I fear that we will lose many more of their own hands, because they can't overcome the haunting images of that day.

I pray for the brave rescue workers who won't step away from Ground Zero long enough to eat or sleep, so strong is their drive to find even one person alive in that million-ton pile of rubble. Please take care of them, and help them to take care of themselves.

I pray for the ministers and chaplains and counselors who must somehow find the words to comfort those in desperate need of spiritual solace. I pray that these extraordinary people, so willing to take the burdens of so many upon their own shoulders, will turn to you for empowerment.

I pray that this horrible chapter in American history will lead to the greatest revival this nation has even known, and may it start in us. I pray that we will not seek blind vengeance, but rather that we will seek your face.

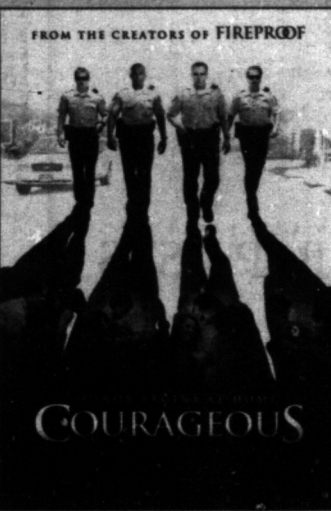
All these pleas are hard enough to pray. Father, given the circumstances, but now comes the hardest part of all: I pray for the souls of the perpetrators of this terrible act. I pray that the people who planned and carried out this terrible attack will someday, somehow, come under conviction, repent of their sin, and worship the true and living Son of God.

That's hard for me to pray, Father, because I want to condemn them to hell. I want to be bitter, like the elder brother of the prodigal son. I want to be judgmental. No, I want to be the judge myself. I want to decide their eternal fate based on my scorecard. I want revenge.

But I can't be that way, because one day I asked Your Son into my heart and He changed my life. I can't act like that even though my human nature wants to, because my nature was changed when I was set apart by my Savior for the special work of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Thank you, Father, for saving a wretch like me. That makes praying this hardest prayer a lot easier.

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Bloomberg blasted for rejecting clergy at 9/11 ceremony

WASHINGTON (BP) — New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's decision not to include clergy in the tenth anniversary remembrance of the 9/11 terrorist attacks has drawn strong objections from Christian leaders.

"This is a shameful example of anti-religious bigotry," said Southern Baptist church-state specialist Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

"This once again betrays the secular bias against religion in certain liberal elements of our society whose epicenter is New York City."

Fernando Cabrera, pastor of New Life Outreach International in the Bronx and a New York City Council member, said he was "utterly disappointed" and "shocked," according to The Wall Street Journal.

Cabrera told CNN he contacted the mayor's office but was told there would be no prayers offered at the ceremony.

Bloomberg's office said the tenth anniversary ceremony

would follow the pattern of previous observances on the date of the worst attack ever against Americans on their soil. Earlier anniversary events also have not included clergy, according to the mayor's office. The focus is to be on those who lost family members in the attacks.

"The ceremony was designed in coordination with 9/11 families with a mixture of readings that are spiritual, historical, and personal in nature," said Evelyn Erskine, a spokeswoman for Bloomberg, in an email to Cable News Network (CNN).

"It has been widely supported for the past 10 years and rather than have disagreements over which religious leaders participate we would like to keep the focus of our commemoration ceremony on the family members of those who died."

There will be moments of silence during the tenth anniversary observance so people can have times of "personal and religious introspection," Erskine told CNN.

The exclusion of religious leaders from participation in the ceremony contrasts sharply with the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Land and Cabrera said.

"On that day, political correctness didn't matter," Land said. "It was overwhelmed by the crushing reality of the tragedy of 9/11, and people turned, as they always do, to solace from the realm of the spirit and those religious leaders who have always guided them in that realm."

"This is one of the pillars that carried us through. They were the spiritual and emotional backbone, and when you have a situation where people are trying to find meaning, where something is bigger than them, when you have a crisis of this level, they often look to the clergy," said Cabrera, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Land noted first-responders — police, firemen, and emergency personnel — also are not invited to participate in the ceremony unless they are family members of vic-

tims. "Once again, on the original 9/11, first-responders were not excluded, and I suspect that if, God forbid, there is another attack of similar severity in New York, neither religious leaders nor first-responders will be excluded from that event either."

"This just shows the mindless secularist prejudice of the political establishment on the East Coast."

Terrorists affiliated with the Islamic extremist organization al-Qaida carried out the attacks in 2001 by hijacking four commercial airliners.

They crashed two into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon.

The other airliner crashed in rural western Pennsylvania near Shanksville, after a battle between the hijackers and a band of heroic passengers ended in the death of everyone aboard.

Nearly 3,000 people on the planes and in the buildings they struck died in the crashes, including more than 400 first-responders who died at the World Trade Center.

Church near Ground Zero sees victories

NEW YORK (BP) — In the days following Sept. 11, 2001, many Americans flocked to churches only to drop out within months.

Taylor Field, a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary in New York City, had a much different experience. Ten years following America's deadliest terrorist attack, his church is still experiencing spiritual victories that stem from 9/11.

"The terrorists underestimated how God could use something that was intended for evil to bring so much good," Field, pastor and director of East Seventh Church — Graffiti on Manhattan's Lower East Side, told Baptist Press.

Located 20 blocks from Ground Zero, Graffiti is a church and community center committed to sharing the love of Jesus through an array of ministries including Bible studies, free meals, English and computer classes, a clothes closet, and crisis counseling.

Following 9/11, Graffiti made a five-year commitment to help people impacted by the attack. The effort focused largely on assisting the thousands of service workers and manual laborers who lost their jobs because of 9/11 and counseling people with ongoing emotional trauma.

In total, more than 5,000 people benefited, and Graffiti experienced unprecedented ministry expansion. In 2001, the congregation met in a storefront and had about 20 ministries. Today it owns its own building, has helped start 14 additional churches in the city, and has multiplied vastly its network of outreach ministries.



REACHING OUT — North American Mission Board missionary Taylor Field (left) has led East Seventh Baptist Church — Graffiti in Lower Manhattan into key roles in church planting in New York City and inner-city ministry since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. (BP photo)

Each year more than 10,000 people are affected by Graffiti's work. "I think that 9/11 was a propulsion for some of that activity," Field said. "It put New York City on the hearts of many people, including New Yorkers, and pastorally, as I hear people talk about it, 9/11 for some people was a critical turning point in their lives."

The new building afforded unique ministry opportunities early in the decade as the congregation hired the unemployed to do construction work. "There are still people that

bring their children by our building," Field said, "and some people who had kind of a low self-concept or not a lot of confidence in what they've achieved say, 'I helped build this building,' and they want to show their children what they did because they did some part in it and we were able to give them a stipend or say thank you to them for what they did."

Part of the reason the congregation's ministries have been effective is that Sept. 11 made New Yorkers more open to faith, Field noted. It also helped them learn how to stick together in trials, he said.

During the New York power outages of 2003, for example, Field noticed how kindly people treated one another. In comparison, similar outages in the 1970s brought widespread looting and vandalism.

"I remember sitting with a group of people that were in pretty difficult situations and asking why they thought that

didn't happen this time when it did the other time," Field recounted, "and people, to a person, said 9/11."

"We learned that when terrible things or difficult things happened, we could stick together rather than fighting each other."

The terror attack personally shaped Field's approach to pastoral care. By working with victims in subsequent years, he learned that people often keep secret their deepest heartaches and need more compassion than is evident.

That realization prompted him to have the entire Graffiti Church staff trained in counseling trauma victims, so that they could help whenever a need arose in the future.

"There was a big rush of impact right afterwards," Field said of 9/11.

"People flocked to churches, but they didn't see a long-term impact. I feel like, looking at it over five or 10 years, I really do see a long-term impact," he said.

Looking back

10 years ago

The William "Bill" Causey Missions and Activity Center at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko is dedicated Aug. 28 in honor of the executive director-treasurer emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

20 years ago

California pastor Jess Moody agrees to be nominated for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention next year in a last ditch attempt to heal the rift between the two factions that have fought for the control of the SBC for more than a decade.

50 years ago

Enrollees in the armed forces will be required to call on God for help to carry out their oath and to swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States if a bill now in Congress becomes law.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 35



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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OCSV NAWAVKWWV:
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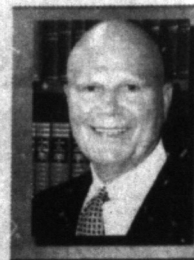
Clue: P = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Thirty-Four

THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN

Through the years I have had the privilege of sitting at the feet of some great preachers and teachers, and I am just amazed at the depth of wisdom, understanding, and the capacity they have for intellect. Many of them — in fact I would say that I have had the privilege of hearing, that meant the most to me — had wisdom that was not just earthly but heavenly as it was touched by the Spirit of God. I personally believe that the spiritual giftedness of teaching and the spiritual gift of preaching are two very different gifts that result in a different work of God in our hearts. While I know that God called me to preach, I have never felt that He gave me the gift of teaching as recorded in Scripture. I say that because when I hear those spiritually gifted teachers, I am amazed and often sit there thinking, "How do they do that?" I know how they do it. It is a God thing and I am blessed, but today I do not draw from the great wisdom of scholars of ages gone by or from great teachers of today. I want to share with you a kind of amazing wisdom displayed in a child.

The first thought that I want to pass along to you came from the mouth of my youngest granddaughter. She, like the other seven, is an incredible little child and is now in three-year-old kindergarten. One of her recent accomplishments was to memorize John 3:16. She struggled with learning that verse. She was intensely saying John 3:16 to her mother. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not *panic*, but have everlasting life." That is the way this three-year-old kindergartner heard it,



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"Whoever believeth in him should not *panic*." When I heard what she had learned and said, I thought to myself that is absolutely wonderful.

In a world that is filled with wise and gifted people, we are seeing everything around us turned upside down and inside out. Whether it is the economy, a medical crisis, storms, wars, or rumors of wars, the people of God do not need to panic. I know that the word in John 3:16 is should not *perish* and that is true also, but for many of God's people they would be well served to know that if they believe in Jesus they will not perish but neither do they need to panic. Biblically it would help us to understand that if we know Jesus, our life now and our life forever rests in His hands.

Regardless of what is taking place in our world, He understands, He knows, and He is going to take care of our life and meet our needs. Too many of us are often like the fellow who said poetically, "When in trouble, when in doubt, run in circles, scream, and shout!" That is not really necessary for we can trust in Him, and in the words of a little child when we do trust Him, "We shall not panic."

The second bit of wisdom from a child came from another little girl who woke up in the middle of the night and was frightened. Maybe it was because of a dream or just being afraid in the dark. She got up and went to her mother and dad's bedroom fretting

and crying. The mother calmed her down and went back to her bedroom with her. She helped her get into bed and told her everything was going to be alright. The little girl was calm. The mother got up to leave and walked over to turn the light off in the little girl's bedroom. The little girl said, "Mama, please leave the light on." Trying to reassure her, the mother said, "Well everything will be alright. You do not have to worry. You do not have to be afraid of the dark." The little girl responded and said, "Mama, I am not afraid of the dark when the light is on!"

All of us, regardless of whatever age or stage we may be in, may struggle from time to time with the darkness of this world and the uncertainties around us that we cannot see and are unable to explain. It is amazing how we can have confidence, strength, courage, and boldness when the light is on. I too am not afraid of the dark when the light is on, and I am sure that the Lord knows us better than we may know ourselves. He tells us that when we come to live with Him that there will

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be no need for the light of the sun or moon. "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23). Even so in the here and now, the Lord will provide light for our path wherever we may go.

A final bit of wisdom from a child came from a precious little one who was learning the Lord's Prayer. Children hear things and interpret them in light of their own little world and their own understanding of things. This little child saying the Lord's Prayer repeated it like this: "Our Father, which art in heaven. How did you know my name?" I know that the Lord's Prayer is focused on God and the holy, highly exalted, hallowed name of God, but not for this youngster who was praying in somewhat amazement because "God knows my name." Maybe the interpretation was over simplified, but in terms that were better understood by the child God Almighty desires to have a personal relationship with His people. He knows our names and everything about us. He knows the good, bad, ugly, our achievements, and our wars. He knows it all and He still loves us. In the words of Isaiah, I am reminded of the blessing of these little children which says, "And a little child shall lead them" (Isa. 11:6).

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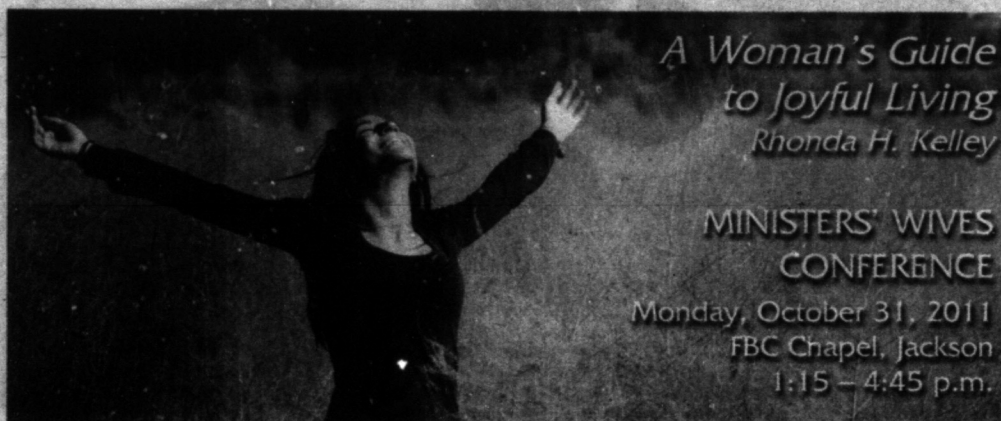
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 8, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



A Woman's Guide
to Joyful Living
Rhonda H. Kelley

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William Carey
University, Hattiesburg

SEPT. 18, 2011
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First Baptist Church
Wiggins

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First Baptist Church
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Locate and open the registration form,
print, complete and mail.

Contact rkeels@mbcb.org for more information

Online Training

for WMU Missions
& Women's Ministry Leaders

Mississippi WMU is now offering online training
for missions leaders.

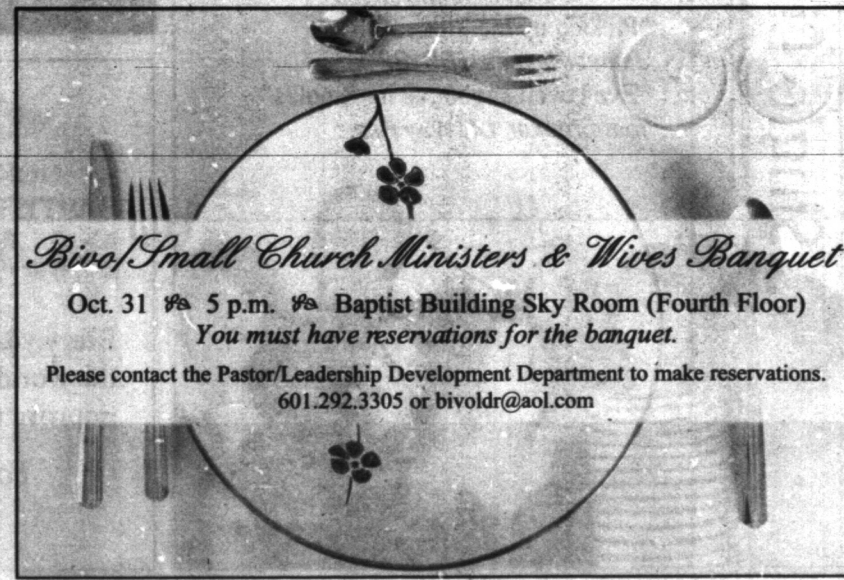
The following seven conferences are
now available:

- How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

These online conferences are designed to train
missions leaders in the local association and church
to facilitate missions education and ministries as
needed in their ministry environment.

To participate you must register online at:
www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/education/online_training.aspx
Online registration is now open.

For more information about online training
please contact
Tammy Anderson
in the Mississippi WMU office
at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or
tanderson@mbcb.org.



Bivoli/Small Church Ministers & Wives Banquet

Oct. 31 5 p.m. Baptist Building Sky Room (Fourth Floor)
You must have reservations for the banquet.

Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department to make reservations.
601.292.3305 or bivoldr@aol.com

Fall Bible Drill Retreat

October 7-8, 2011
Garaywa • Clinton, Mississippi

Includes program tracks:

- Children Grades 4-6
- Children's Bible Drill teachers
- Students Grades 7-12
- Student Bible Drill teachers
- Student Speakers
- Tournament (Grades 10-12)

Questions: > dbrashier@mbcb.org



CSC '11
For all college students
Find opportunities to be involved
Get info about summer missions

Speaker: Ben Stuart (Breakaway College Station)
Music: Ross King (College Station)

Sponsored by College Station Ministry and Student Church Union • Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

State Missions Goal: \$2,000,000

Your contributions to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering go to fund ministries like:

- Church Planting
- Cross Cultural Ministries
- College and University Outreach
- Community Mission Projects
- Disaster Relief
- Port Ministry

Please pray about what God would have you discover during Mississippi's state missions emphasis. Also, pray to discover what God wants you to give through the Margaret Lackey Offering.



SBC Seminary Extension Directors AND Associational Missions Directors BREAKFAST

During the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Nov. 1
7-8 a.m.

Baptist Building Chapel

Please notify Keith Gordon, 601.292.3307 or kgordon@mbcb.org if you will attend. Wives are also invited to attend.

Randy Williams, SBC Seminary Extension Director will be available to answer any questions about the program and/or starting one in your association.

Single Life Conferences

Saturday, Sept. 17

Singles' Round-Up
Neshoba Association Center, Philadelphia
For more info: 601-656-1820

Friday, Sept. 23

Singles' Round-Up
First Baptist Church, Saffillo
Special Guest: Becky Brown, Richland
Light Supper (Please RSVP)
For more info: 662-869-5742

Monday, Oct. 3

Northeast Baptist Church, Meridian
For more info: 601-482-3498
garycherylso@att.net
6:30 Light Supper (Please RSVP)
*Door prizes
7:15 Introductions/Conferences
"Picking up the Pieces"
James Haynes, FBC, Biloxi
"Five Love Languages for Singles"
Tom Crocker, LifeWay Rep.



January Bible Study Preview ~ September 22, 2011

THE PURSUIT

Studies in Ecclesiastes

CHASING ANSWERS
TO LIFE'S QUESTIONS

Speaker: Dr. William (Bill) Tolar
Where: First Baptist Church, Jackson
When: 9 a.m. — noon



Baptist Women's Day of Prayer

November 7, 2011

Every year on the first Monday of November, Baptist women around the world gather to pray for each other and give to support projects that improve the lives of women and children.

For program resources and more information go to
www.nabwu.org

Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship RETREAT

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Program Guest: Dr. Dan Edney

Emphasis: Training nurses for Disaster Relief in Mississippi and Around the World!

For more information contact Tammy Anderson in the MS WMU office at 601-292-3323/800-748-1651 or tanderson@mbcb.org

Registration deadline: Sept. 16

Bivo/Small Church Council Meeting

Oct. 31, 3 p.m.

Baptist Building Sky Room, 4th Floor

40th Annual Church Library Ministry Conference

Telling the Story of Jesus

Oct. 7-8
First Baptist Church
Clinton

Registration
deadline is
Sept. 23

For more conference
details go to
mbcb.org > Events
> Communication
Services

Contact
Judy Chen
601.292.3378
jchen@mbcb.org
for more
information
or to register

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on the topics of:

Advanced Devotional and Sears,
Bible & Book Repair, Collecting
& Preserving Your Church
History, Dewey and Sears for
Everyone, Grow and Go,
Improving Ministry Through
Automation, Inventory and
Weeding, Media Preparation,
Planning to "Tell the Story,"
Promoting Your Church History
Promotion with Pizzazz, Quick-
start with Concourse,
Researching & Writing Your
Church History, Space and
Furnishing Technology
in the Library

Pray this day for...

"Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

Pray for: a Missions Mobilization team of eight traveling to Lima, Peru, to serve as a promotional team for the Mississippi Singing Churchmen Concert Tour, Sept. 10-17.

Pray for: a Missions Mobilization team of three traveling to provide leadership for a men's retreat for C9 cluster workers in East Asia, Sept. 12-21.

Pray for: a Missions Mobilization team of eight traveling to minister through completion of a construction project in Southeast Asia, Sept. 12-22.

Pray for: a team of six from Sturgis BC traveling to Thailand to minister through evangelism, Sept. 14-26.

Pray for: a team of five from Lafayette BA traveling to Slovenia to minister through evangelism and construction, Sept. 15-23.

Pray for: developing partnerships and new ministry opportunities to be revealed through a visit from the IMB East Asia Cluster Leader to Mississippi, Sept. 8-12.

Pray for: a team of five from Star BC traveling to Ukraine to minister through evangelism and children's ministry, Sept. 10-19.

Pray for: John* and Amy Putt, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Bulgaria through volunteer coordination, and community and home evangelism.

Pray for: Tracy and Eugenia* Putnam, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Russia through theological education, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: Michael* and Annette* Racey, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: Mike and Linda* Ray, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Ukraine through strategy coordination, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: Steven* and Nickolee* Roberts, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Sept. 9 - 22, 2011

Project: Christmas Cards

Mississippi Baptist churches have been asked to assist Mississippi Chaplains in collecting Christmas Cards for over 3100 inmates. Each inmate will receive 5 cards. These cards will allow inmates to send cards to their friends and family during the Christmas holidays.

To participate:

- (1) Create bundles of 5 cards/envelopes by wrapping each bundle with a strip of white paper and taping or stapling the paper together.
 - (2) For Parchman Prison—Mail your bundles to Jim Whisnant, PO Box 40, Parchman MS 38738 or Jim Whisnant, Hwy 32 and 49 W, Parchman MS 38738.
- For South MS Correctional Institution—contact Chaplain David Smelser for the mailing address—601-394-5600. Chaplain Smelser can also direct you to other prisons in Mississippi participating in this project.

*** All cards should be received by November 15, 2011.

For assistance with this project contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office, 601-292-3323 or tanderson@mbcb.org.

shop early shop often
www.WorldCrafts.org

Start your Christmas shopping early!
Purchase unique gifts while helping reach the world for Christ.

For information about hosting a WorldCrafts event contact
Tammy Anderson, Mississippi WMU,
at 601-292-3323 or tanderson@mbcb.org

MISS ALICIA MARTIN

11-4-94

Parents: Tom & Cynthia
Las Vegas

MR. CAMPBELL PUTNAM

11-5-98

Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Affinity Group

MR. JOHN THOMAS

11-7-02

Parents: J & C
Restricted

MR. JACOB LIGHTSEY

11-8-91

Parents: Tim & Becky
Mexico

MISS MARISSA BLEDSOE

11-15-96

Parents: David & Laurie
South America

MR. DAVID D.

11-15-03

Parents: Dwayne & Melissa
Central & Eastern Europe

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS

11-19-98

Parents: Ray & Cynthia
Eastern South America

MISS ABIGAIL JOHNSON

11-26-08

Parents: Lew & Brandi
NAME

MR. JOSIAH PUTNAM

11-30-03

Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Affinity Group

Encourage an
MK with a card!



FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

OBITUARY

1. **Bill Hale, 85**, died June 6. He was a native of Linden, Ala. He graduated from William Carey University and New Orleans Seminary. He began his ministry at Lockley Memorial Church, Mt. Vernon, Ala. He pastored the Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; First Church, Richton; Goss Church, Goss; and retired from Air Port Church, Mobile, Ala. Graveside services were held at Woodlawn Cemetery, Columbia, June 8. Services were conducted by Bill Whitfield. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jean Inabit Hale; one daughter, Mary Hale, Baker, La.; one son, John Hale, Lucedale; one sister, Ann McKillop; two brothers, Mitchell and Curtis Hale; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons, Jim and Tim Hale.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **First Church, Greenwood**, is hosting a **Beth Moore** simulcast Sept. 10, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets, \$25, including lunch. For ticket information, call (662) 453-3075.
2. **OX**, former member of a motorcycle club and drug dealer, from **Mercy Hands Street Ministries**, will share at **Crystal Ridge Church**, Louisville, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.
3. **Meadowview Church**, Starkville, is hosting a men's conference, **Strong Men** Difficult Times Oct. 28-29. Early registration, \$45. Call (662) 323-2963 or visit www.mbcstark.com.
4. **First Church**, Batesville, hosted
5. **Moselle Memorial Church**, Moselle, hosted its annual Faith in Action Sunday Sept. 4. The church met together to do work projects.
6. **Meadow Grove Church**, Brandon, will host the Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m.
7. **CORRECTION**: In the Aug. 18 issue of The Baptist Record, Chris Goolsby was mistakenly identified as pastor of First Church, Hazlehurst. Goolsby is pastor of Hillcrest Church, Byram. The Record regrets the error.

Joani Tabor in concert Aug. 28.

Alaska Cruise & Canadian Rockies Vacation

Hosted by Mississippi Baptist
Minister Billy Williams

15 Days Departs July 12, 2012 from \$2398*

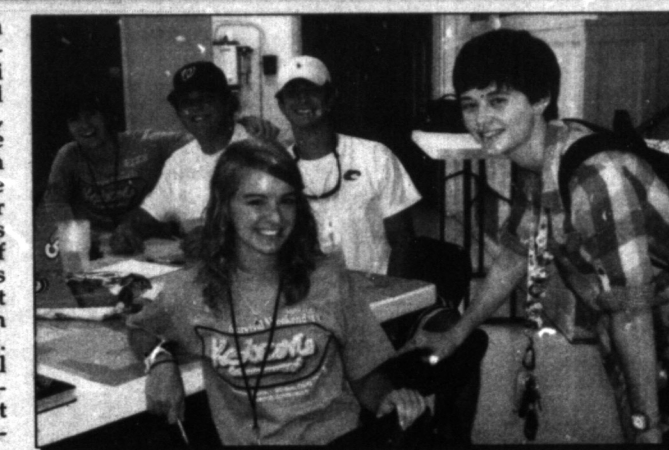
Visit the last of the wilderness-like areas in North America, all from the comfort of your deluxe motor coach and cruise ship. Fly into Calgary starting your scenic six-day motor coach tour to Vancouver, B.C. You'll visit Calgary, Banff National Park, Lake Louise, take a "SnoCoach" ride over the Columbia Ice Fields, visit Jasper National Park, and Vancouver, B.C., where you'll board your 5-STAR cruise ship for your seven-day Holland America Line cruise. Travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers through the inside passage visiting spectacular ports and glaciers including Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan. Your Chaplain is Rev. Billy Williams, taking his ninth trip with YMT as a Baptist Chaplain. *Price per pers., dbl-occ.; includes taxes. Based on inside category M stateroom, and subject to availability; space is limited and cabins are confirmed on a first received basis with deposits. Airfare is extra.



For details, itinerary, reservations and letter from your chaplain with his phone number call 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Baptist pastors from Rankin County are invited to **Mississippi College's** Flowood Center for a luncheon, fellowship time and the opportunity to hear from university leaders. The event is set for September 26 at MC's year-old branch off Lakeland Drive. Pastors begin their meeting at 10:30 a.m. with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. President Lee Royce will serve as the guest speaker and discuss the latest developments at the university.

2. William Carey University BSU Survival Weekend

group leader and sophomore from Moss Point, Jas Stringer and Taylor Fortenberry, both freshmen from Columbia, Brittani Clark, a group leader and senior from Magnolia, and Carol Fairbanks, a freshman from Houston, Texas.

3. The National Council for Geography Education gave Martha Hutson its higher education distinguished teaching award. A Mississippi College faculty member since 2000, she teaches history and geography at the Christian university.



3. Hutson

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Jericho Church, Union County Association**: Revival, Sept. 11 - 15; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Louie Williams, speaker; Marvin Robbins, pastor.
2. **Bethel Church, Drew**: 100th anniversary, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.; special music, food; Larry Livingston, speaker.
3. **Union Hall Church, Brookhaven**: Revival, Sept. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Garland Boyd, speaker; Adrian Woods, music; Billy Joe Deer, pastor.
4. **Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia**: Homecoming, Sept. 11; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Wayne Hill and Charlie Womble, worship leaders.
5. **Eureka Church, Lena**: Revival, Sept. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Floyd Stevenson, pastor and music.
6. **Harmony Church, Brookhaven**: Revival, Sept. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m. nightly; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Doug Moak, music; Owen King, pastor.
7. **New Prospect Church, Brookhaven**: Homecoming, Sept. 11; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship and special music, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Jason McGuffee, speaker; Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Smith, music.
8. **Oak Grove Church, Yazoo County**: Revival, Sept. 11 - 14; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mon. - Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Nick Hughes, speaker; Charlie Harris, pastor.

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HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Cascilla Church, Cascilla



2. Iuka Church, Tishomingo County



3. Wallerville Church, New Albany



4. First Church, Nettleton

1. The King's Kids children's ministry of Cascilla Church, Cascilla, recently gathered together to pray for and write letters to a soldier currently stationed overseas. Shown are the participants.

2. Iuka Church, Tishomingo County, ordained Dennis Jones and Hoyt Peden as deacons. Shown are Jones, Peden, and pastor Ronnie Hatfield.

3. Wallerville Church, New Albany, recognizes those with Sunday School perfect attendance. Shown are Horace Thomas, David VanLandingham (20 years), Karen Mills, Lisa Norwood, Liz VanLandingham (17 years), Evelyn Beatty, Avery Jennings, Charles Sloan, Wanda Bouchillon, and Terry Freeman.

4. First Church, Nettleton, hosted its annual Senior Adult Conference Aug. 9 with some 300 in attendance. Guests included the senior adult choir from Bellevue Church, Memphis. Shown is the choir.

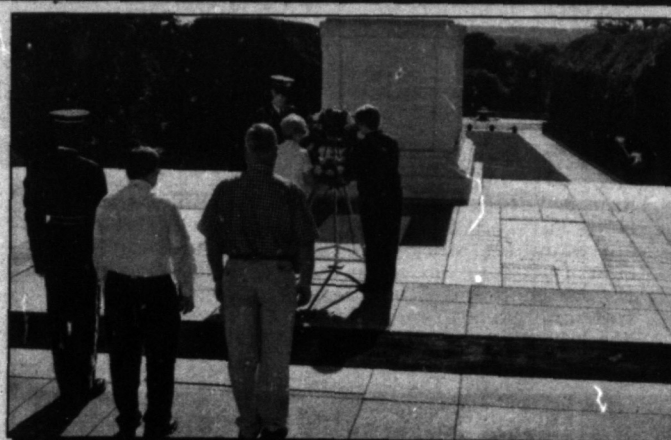
5. A group from Liberty Church, Waynesboro, traveled to Washington, DC, and participated in a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier July 27. Men, shown, are Daryl Pitts and George Gavin; women are Betty Hall and Helen Chason.

6. Moak's Creek Church, Summit, recently held a parent/child dedication service. Shown, from left, are Ken and Paula Yarborough with Maxin; pastor Mike Alexander; and Kristy and Bobby Gates II with Leigha.

7. The Mission Women of Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, donated 25 one gallon cans of vegetables to Our Daily Bread Mission. Shown are Beverly Crews, Judy McCulloough, Ruby Alexander, Robbie Stevens, Dot Collins, Joyce Siquefield, and Barbara Walker.

8. Stronghope Church, Wesson, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are the participants.

9. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a gospel singing Sept. 17, 6 p.m., featuring Joyful Noise.



5. Liberty Church, Waynesboro



6. Moak's Creek Church, Summit



7. Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula



8. Stronghope Church, Wesson

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Grow in Spiritual Maturity

2 Timothy 3: 1-17

By Huey Dedmon

It seems that no matter where you go to shop these days it will not be long until you receive a letter, e-mail, phone call or text asking you to complete a satisfaction survey. These usually deal with the kind of service you have received from the personnel you dealt with and how you like the item you bought. I wonder what it would be like to do a satisfaction survey among the congregations. It seems to me that our church pews are filled with people who are satisfied with their level or may I say their lack of spiritual growth. In our passage this week, Paul is writing to the young minister Timothy about how to move toward spiritual maturity in his life. The path to spiritual maturity is marked by three significant markers.

Make Good Choices
2 Timothy 3:1-9

Paul instructs Timothy to practice discernment in his life. He wants Timothy to have discernment in avoiding evil people and therefore avoiding their wrong choices. Paul warns Timothy that difficult times will come and in those times people will be lovers of self, money, evil and a host of other things. The sobering thought comes in verse 5 when Paul says they are "holding to the form of religion but denying its power." (HCSB) Paul is warning Timothy more about those who claim to be religious than those who he knows are evil. We live in a time when the church will be attacked more and more from forces outside but our real enemy is lack of spiritual



Dedmon

Follow Good Examples
2 Timothy 3:10-13

The second spiritual growth marker Paul points out to Timothy is to locate and follow good examples. Paul himself was Timothy's primary example. We all need examples to follow. The list of Biblical personalities, of which Jesus is most worthy, is very long.

growth among people inside the church. Paul mentions two people in verse 8, Jannes and Jambres, not mentioned in the Old Testament story he references. Jewish tradition identifies them as the Egyptian magicians who tried to duplicate the miracles God performed through Moses and Aaron. Paul uses them to remind Timothy and us that while people like them exist, they are useless to the faith and if we practice discernment in our lives we should have no problem recognizing them. (verses: 8-9)

Every church also has a worthy list of candidates. Paul cautions Timothy to steer clear of false teachers as examples. In verse 12 he advises him that one mark of a good example is a person who is or has been persecuted for his or her faith. It is a false expectation to think that just because we are trying to serve the Lord faithfully that our lives will be trouble free. In fact scripture teaches us that times of trouble are growth opportunities. Many of our senior adults are excellent examples, and many of them have a desire to pass on their legacy while many young adults need and have a desire for someone to mentor them. The bottom line is that we need examples to follow but we must choose the right ones if we are going to experience spiritual growth.

Study Scripture
2 Timothy 3:14-17

We will never be able to make good choices or choose the right examples unless we study the word of God. The

purpose for studying the Bible is to cause life change, not to just increase our knowledge. I know many people who have a great knowledge of scripture but they do very little to put that knowledge into practice. Several years ago I had a friend call me who had been a Christian many years. His knowledge of scripture as well as the example of practicing what he knew had been handed down through parents and grandparents. This person had been exposed to a system of thought that sounded Biblical but posed many questions. My advice to him was to go back to the scripture and to the examples from which he had formed his theology. The only way to recognize false teachings is to know true teachings and you only find the truth in God's word and to follow the example other have set before us.

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Good News to Hear

Romans 2:1-11; 3:21-26

By Marion D. Duncan

Ten years ago on September 11, 2001, few Americans had to be told the bad news of the hour because most of us had watched the crumbling of the Twin Towers in front of our eyes on television. Life is like that for many people; they live in bad news — such is the daily routine of lost sinners. Yet all of them can hear some good news, the best of which Christians have to share with them. We have the gospel — the Good News — that God has acted to provide salvation and all can have it through faith in Jesus Christ.

The passage in Romans preceding the focal verses addresses the wrath of God against the godlessness and wickedness of men — men who had known about God's eternal power and divine

nature made plain to them through creation. They knew God through His creation, but they neither glorified Him nor thanked Him. They needed more.

They acted foolishly and exchanged the glory of God for images made in the likeness of things created, rather than worshipping the Creator. God gave them over to a depraved mind, the evidence of which is immorality. Not only did they behave as idolaters who deserved death, but approved of those who embraced and practiced idolatry.

Paul talks about the wrath of God, but he never talks about God's being angry. He speaks of God's love and His loving, of His grace and gracious giving, and of His fidelity and His being faithful to His people, but never of His anger. The wrath



Duncan

of God is the inevitable punishment of sin. It is in the structure of the universe and results from the consequences of our rebellion against the love of God which saves us because of what Jesus did for us as seen on the cross. (The letter to the Romans, William Barclay)

In Romans 2:1-5, Paul warned the Jews not to pass judgment on others because they themselves were guilty of the same things. He addressed their own hypocrisy — the opinion that others were worse than they were. A mere man does not have the infinite knowledge of God and cannot bring someone else under his judgment without he, himself, coming under the righteous judgment of God. He had extended to them the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, and had led them to repentance. When the righteous judgment of God finally comes, it will take into consideration every thought, word, and deed, sins of omission

and sins of commission. Like ripples on a pond, sin sets in motion events over which the sinner has no control. Thus, a hypocrite judging others puts himself on thin ice facing the judgment of God, for God does not show favoritism. (Exploring Romans, John Phillips)

The following verses (6-11) are not about salvation, but judgment. God will judge every one of us with impartiality according to our deeds and our motives, but will reward behavior that reflects our being faithful believers. Here, Paul stresses that if we remain true to a life lived according to the teaching of Jesus and, if by our actions, we demonstrate that we love Jesus and have been called according to His purpose, then when we are judged by Him, we will enter into life for eternity. On the other hand, if one is self-seeking and rejects the truth and follows evil, "God will give them His punishment and indignation ... trouble and suffering — to the Jew first and also to those who are

not Jews. For God judges all people in the same way." (Excerpts, Romans 2:8-11, New Century Version)

Paul told the Romans that the "specialness" of being a Jew was not in the rite of circumcision, but that God trusted the Jews with his teachings. Jews and those who are not Jews are all guilty of sin regardless of circumcision. "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement (the one who would turn aside His wrath, taking away sin) through faith in his blood." (3:22b-25a NIV)

God gave Jesus to demonstrate today that He does what is right (just), and so He could make right (just) any person who has faith in Jesus. (3:26, paraphrased)

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mccb.org.

THE BAPTIST Record

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Springdale Church, West

1. **Springdale Church, West:** Shown are the participants.

2. **Topisaw Church, Bogue Chitto:** Shown is 96-year-old Veta Grace Reeves, center, with all of the children. Reeves still enjoys passing out cookies to the children.



3. Providence Church, Grenada County

3. **Providence Church, Grenada County:** July 18-22; 35 enrolled; 30 average attendance; shown are some of the participants.



2. Topisaw Church, Bogue Chitto

4. **Moak's Creek Church, Summit:** Average attendance, 57. Shown are the participants.



4. Moak's Creek Church, Summit

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Take a
fresh look

Every word matters.



Every word of Scripture matters because every word is from God and for people. Because every word is from God, the HCSB uses words like Yahweh (Is. 42:8), Messiah (Luke 3:15), and slave (Rev. 1:1). And because every word of Scripture is for 21st century people, the HCSB replaces words like "Behold" with modern terms like "Look." For these reasons and others, Christians across the globe are taking a fresh look at the HCSB.


HCSB
Every Word Matters
HCSB.org